

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

December 2, 2003

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Gatsas.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez,
Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Absent: Alderman Wihby

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Dennis Phelps, 10 Pond Drive, Manchester stated:

The problem I have is with the light pollution at Spring Hill Suites Hotel and the insurance company. I have letters here from back in March 2002 and February 2002 that Alderman DeVries has copies of that they were supposed to do something about their lighting. The problem is...it would be nice if it were just yellow lights but it is not. It is high intensity lights. They are just beaming across the pond so you get the light from the building and you have the lights from the pond shining in at the houses that are along the pond. It is kind of discerning because at one time not every long ago, like three years, it was very dark there and it was nice. You didn’t know you were in Manchester but now it is unbelievable because you are surrounded by these bright lights coming toward you. So as I am sitting in my living room all I get to see are these lights shining through my window. According to Nayan Patell, President of the hotel who was supposed to address these...

Mayor Baines interjected can we have a copy of that.

Mr. Phelps responded you can have this one. I have one other thing. I would like to thank Alderman DeVries for the work that she did from Harvest Road down to Pond Drive. Thank you very much because there is no problem there at all now.

Mike Jones, 72 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:

I would like to bring to the Board's attention and the Mayor's attention the issue we have with Mission Avenue. That the road is an unpaved street and it is unaccepted and we are trying to get the City to accept it. We have recently been informed that the Highway Department will no longer be maintaining or plowing Mission Avenue through the winter months. This is obviously an issue that needs to be brought to the Board. I have prepared a letter for all of the members of the Board that gets into some of the legal background on the street and some of the background.

Sally Poulin, 30 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:

I have lived on Mission Avenue for 12 years. I live on the unpaved portion. Now the City says that this street is unaccepted or unapproved but the road is probably the only road in Manchester that is unpaved. It has been used by the public longer than I have lived there. We have City water, sewer, electricity and streetlights. The City collects trash, grade the road, plows the road and even gives permits to build houses. I, along with the rest my neighbors pay my taxes, which increase every year. So I ask now when you call the Highway Department to grade the road who or what gives Mr. Thomas the right to say he is not going to plow it or grade it? I along with my other 13 neighbors want to know what we can do in the case of fire, ambulance, police, school bus, postal delivery? What if these vehicles can't get down the street? I am certain that there is more unaccepted, unapproved roads in the City of Manchester. Are any of them unpaved? Are we, the residents of Mission Avenue, the only ones who live on an unaccepted, unapproved road, which is unpaved in the City? We realize that there is a cost in sending the grader up to grade the road but we all pay our taxes. I am sure that there are a lot of unaccepted roads in the City but they are maintained by the City. They are plowed, their trash is collected and you collect their taxes but you probably never hear about them because they all have pavement. Do you think that if our road was paved we would be calling to have the grader sent up there? I ask you again what gives Mr. Frank Thomas the right and power to say stop grading or plowing Mission Avenue? Let me ask you this. How would you like to live on a road that has dirt and dust? The health problems that we have to contend with for our children and ourselves, allergies, asthma not to mention the fact that you are unable to keep your cars clean. I am asking that the Mayor and the Board take some action to help us rectify the situation.

Debra Lappas, Farmer Street, Manchester stated:

I happen to be involved in the Mission Street situation because my house is on the corner of Farmer and Mission. As you know we have been told that it is an unaccepted street and it

needs to be repeticioned. I did find, which you may all have handouts in front of you that should have been passed out, that there was a petition issued back on March 31, 1987, which does outline that the petition in fact was accepted by the Mayor and Aldermen on March 21, 1988. Today I visited the archive files to try and locate the petition, along with the certified letters mailed out to the property owners listed on the petition. However, they couldn't be located. I certainly would appreciate if this could be researched further. Even with the findings we are being told that the petition was not done properly back in 1987 and it must be repeticioned, however, in the books I am unable to locate any paperwork which indicates that the petition was done incorrectly. As Sally mentioned, we have all of the utilities. I would just like to make some other points. Farmer Street is an unaccepted street and it is paved and it was paved after I moved in, which was back in 1992 so I am not quite sure why that one is paved and is unaccepted. Again, we pay the same taxes. Our current Alderman, Real Pinard, for many years has tried to get this paved as well. I am assuming you are all aware of this situation. If not, a nice drive by on the road tomorrow would be nice for your shocks. Frank Thomas has also been great in taking very good care of the roads in the past by grading the potholes and time and time again plowing the street. I bet, however, if we calculate the cost to maintain the roads over 12+ years it probably could have been paved by now. Mayor Baines you may also remember that you visited the street a couple of years ago. Please note, however, just to let you know, Mission Avenue, the people who live here all we want is the road to be paved where it lays. We are not looking for anything special. We want an approved, undusty road and that is why we are here tonight. I thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Mayor Baines called Luis Gonzalez forward and stated I just want to read this letter from Leo Bernier since Luis is standing out there right now.

“I have recently learned that our Security Guard, Luis Angel Gonzalez, has been called to active duty. Luis will be leaving to protect and defend our Country with the National Guard for eighteen months.

Since early July of this year Luis has performed his security duties here at City Hall well. I am asking that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen recognize Luis this evening and wish him well on his tour of duty. Beyond a doubt Louis will serve his country well.

Although we may not miss him as much as the daughter he is leaving behind, we will miss his pleasant manner and the assistance he provides the public here. I know that my office will look forward to his return to duty at City Hall in 2005.”

s/Leo R. Bernier

Mayor Baines stated I want to add my commendation to you for your service here at City Hall and we are very proud that you are going to serve our great country and we wish you Godspeed. Congratulations.

John Goudouros, Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:

Mission Avenue is 1,200 feet in length. 600 feet is already paved and 600 feet is not. For 21 years we wait for the City to fix the 600 feet, but nothing has happened yet. Four years ago Mr. Mayor and Alderman Real Pinard visited Mission Avenue and saw the condition of it and said that we have to fix the street. Four years have gone by now and nothing has been done. I invite every one of you to visit Mission Avenue to see with your own eyes the condition of the street but I warn you that after you go through your car will need to be repaired. The people of Mission Avenue have asked the City again and again and again to fix the street but our voice is lost in space. Do you call that progress of the City? I don't think so. The City always collects our taxes every year but refuses to fix our street. The City spent lots of money for three whole years to fix 600 feet of street at Spruce between Massabesic Street but do not have money for Mission Avenue. That work at Spruce was only for one summer, not for three years of work.

Sandra Howard, 15 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:

My husband Gary and I and our four children have lived in this house since 1987. I personally did sign the petition that Mrs. Lappas spoke of when we first moved in. My in-laws lived at the other end of the road and they gave us the lot to build our house on and live on and shortly after that the road was surveyed and laid out to be paved and it was all staked out and graded and then all of the sudden nothing happened and we never got our road in. I have a son now with asthma and the doctor said it is because of the dust and the dirt. We can't open our windows in the summer. My rugs and my linoleum are ruined. It is just unbearable and I want to say thank you to Real Pinard from all of us for trying to help over the years to do what we needed to have done. He was always there when we needed him. We just want our road paved.

Jane Beaulieu, 609 So. Main Street, Manchester stated:

Before I start I just want to mention that Bill Houghton served our country. He was in Iraq for five months from January until July. I want to start by thanking the two Aldermen who will not be here next year and the year after for serving the City and thank them for assisting me in all of my efforts. Real Pinard, thank you very much for your service. I appreciate everything that you have done for myself and for the City and also for Alderman Wihby who is not here. Tonight I would like to talk about City surplus land. You do have information in front of you. I have done a little bit of research and this information does come from City ordinances and this is Chapter 34. The Conservation Commission and myself have been working towards identifying these properties. There is a list of roughly 300 properties I believe that are City surplus property. The definition of surplus City property is real estate owned by City, which is not required for municipal purposes either presently or in the foreseeable future. I just want to comment on the foreseeable future. There is a lot of that property that is adjacent to parks, schools and really should be looked at to be set aside for future growth. Also, if you look at 34:24 on the property list, I do have that list of properties

and it is very difficult to find out just by looking at that list where that property is in the City and the Planning Director and this in Section 34:24 of the City policies it says “the Planning Director shall compile and maintain a list of all property owned by the City. This list shall contained a detailed description of each parcel and such other pertinent information as is deemed appropriate by the Director or by the Committee on Lands and Buildings. Parcels having no value may be omitted or deleted from the list with the approval of the Committee.” I am here to just let the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and also the Planning Director know that I am available to assist them in mapping out these properties because I believe there are a lot of properties on this list that should be protected for many, many reasons and I am there to assist. Thank you.

Brad Thomassen, 43 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:

I have lived on Mission Avenue for approximately 14 months with my family. I am originally from Londonderry. I am here tonight just to have you think about the non-paved road on Mission Avenue. I have heard stories of the history of the road and how it has been in this condition over the years. It just appears that we keep running into some roadblocks when we are trying to move forward with those that represent us. We would like to find out the issues in a quicker manner whether it has to do with title searches because I know that was something that had come up as a stop gap that is prohibiting things to move forward in the plan to get this road paved and it would be nice if the City is interested in assisting us that if there are roadblocks we are all of the understanding of what the problems are so that we as the homeowners there can understand what we need to do, if anything, to be able to give you the information or provide any background because it sounds like everyone wants the road paved but it seems like along this timeframe things are coming up that are just halting the process and now the road will not be graded and dirt will not be laid into the crevices that are making huge divets in the road, which are wrecking our cars. It is not a good site in a nice residential suburban area within Manchester. We just ask you to take a look into this matter and assist us in any way possible so we can get the paperwork done and move things forward so that in 2004 we can potentially have it paved.

D.J. Murphy, PO Box 10143, Bedford stated:

Just briefly I am appearing here tonight to ascertain the exact recognition of the status of the Riverfront Stadium Developmental Project that is the ballpark. I just want to bring it to the public’s attention that according to the newspaper here on Wednesday, November 26 that the ballpark developer and owner had split. It was on the front page. I just wanted to make notations to that so it is registered for the public that we no longer have the same status we had previously and there seems to be a separation of the major players in regards to this project. One of the concerns is that individuals are Mr. Weber Corporation or LLC by the name of Manchester Downtown Visions. I don’t think...the term Manchester I am not sure whether that applies to...they work for the City of Manchester or they are independent but they do have the name Manchester in front of Downtown Visions so it gives the impression that they are connected somehow to the City of Manchester and that is something you might

want to look into. I, myself, don't know. I didn't take the time to research the ownership with the Secretary of State's Office, not that I was interested because I am sure you people can handle that. What has to be noted for the public is that we have this delay possibly of the construction of development along the riverfront and what that represents quickly is a lot of presentations to the public inside the article in *the Manchester Union Leader*. One of it is that the project cost just for the baseball stadium was \$25+ million. In reflecting back to the time when you people agreed that \$25+ million applied not only to the stadium but to additional development that you had approved in the past.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

I think you have heard enough on Mission Avenue but several weeks ago there was an Alderman in here that told me I was an embarrassment when I came up here to speak to you people. Well embarrass the hell out of me then but I bet you dollar for donuts that before you pave this road on Mission Avenue for taxpayers you are going to go up where they want to build a new mosque on I believe it is Karacas Avenue that is in terrible shape up there. I bet you dollar for donuts that you are going to redo that road before you pave Mission Avenue for taxpayers. So please embarrass the hell out of me. Prove me wrong. Pave the road for them. Bait and switch. It happens in this City all the time. It happened four years ago here with the civic center. I came in and told you that you weren't building it big enough and the management contract stunk and you are biting it now. Chase Block. The developer came in, bid that building, was the only one that had a chance to buy that building for \$100,000 in 15 years and it is worth \$2.4 million now. Bait and switch. You are doing it with the Plaza and the parking garage. You are going to give them first dibs on it because they abut it. Upon Wellington Road you bait and switched up there with the contractor to build houses up there. You are not giving it to the number one bidder, you are giving it to the second bidder. Bait and switch. Why? Because he owns buildings and land next to it but I bet you are going to try to do the same thing out on Candia Road where they want to put the Dunkin Donuts. He doesn't have enough acreage out there to rezone that industrial land to residential of any shape but I bet you are going to say he can do it because they also have the two and a half acres where the Dunkin Donuts is going to go. Bait and switch. The ballpark. Same thing. Bait and switch. You had all this promise of all this extra tax money coming in and now you are not even going to have enough money to pay for what I believe is going to be about \$250,000 in overtime for cops to direct traffic outside the ballpark just like you have to pay for the civic center. My biggest question is I don't have a problem with Drew Weber borrowing on that \$2.5 million. I read the contract. It is a gray area but he saw something and he did it. My biggest question is and what I see in the newspaper is that eight of you said you didn't know anything about it. You didn't know anything about it. My biggest question is the other six of you, plus the CEO of this City said they were comfortable with it. Why didn't you tell the other eight and who facilitated these little meetings that Drew Weber and the developers had with little groups of Aldermen? The same thing happened with the civic center. You were piece mealed information and you bought the train. You are doing the same thing here but my question is who facilitated those meetings?

One last thing. Your Finance Department sold you the bill of goods. Who were they working for? The City or the developer. Why doesn't somebody call for the dismissal of those people?

Maureen Molly Lee Sherman, 444 Chestnut Street, Manchester stated:

I want to talk about the Bridge Street Bridge. The sidewalk has been closed for three to four years and a lot of people need it to cross over the river and they are not doing it... you haven't had construction on it for years. All they have to do is put the wire under the bridge and I was wondering if they could speed it up. Thank you.

Paul Porter, Woodcrest Court, Manchester stated:

I will be brief. I do have copies here of the area that was under question by the residents of Mission Avenue. I was asked by the members if I would say a few words. I wholeheartedly support their effort to get the street paved and I believe that with 14 Aldermen, a Mayor and several departments heads involved, including the Solicitor's Office that we will be able to come to a solution of that problem that will be agreeable to all parties concerned. I certainly cannot expand on what the residents did say. I certainly do feel very strongly that it does deserve further consideration and I want to commend Real Pinard. He was there when they needed him and I hope to continue that. I do hope that this honorable Board will consider this issue very seriously and come to an amicable agreement. If not this evening, perhaps a referral to a proper Committee would be appropriate. I don't know but I want to thank you very much.

Kelly Fuller, 58 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:

I would like to see the road paved. I have some issues with it not being plowed this winter. I hope it gets plowed and that they maintain it before it gets paved because I have issues with that too. I have been living there for four years and the dust...it is not healthy to live on a road that is not paved. I would like to see it paved.

Dorothea Gaikis, 59 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:

I have lived there for three years. I just built up the house. It is terrible especially in the winter with all of those holes they have ruining the cars. It doesn't matter what kind of vehicle you have. I have a 4 x 4 and still I have to go around the corner so I can go by. I have a child who is old enough but people who have teenagers and little kids play on that road with those holes there and they can get injured. In the summer I can't do anything like clean my windows, open the door, open the windows or cook outside. It is ridiculous. It is a shame to pay those taxes, more taxes than what I pay for my payment. Thank you. We had Mr. Pinard try the best for us but we would love to see that road paved. Thank you for your time and than you for listening to us.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented and on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk